

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weng, in view of Tanaka and in further view of Palmer.

In the Official Action it is asserted that the threaded chamber 11 is a quick connect coupling. It is imperative for the Examiner to understand that the term "QUICK CONNECT COUPLING" is a coupling that is engaged by simply pushing, turning a partial revolution or pushing after pulling back an outer sleeve. Such couplings were developed as an alternative to the relatively cumbersome, time consuming and often difficult to engage threaded connections. There are many different types of "QUICK CONNECT COUPLINGS" from those which are 1) male and female to those which are sexless. Threaded connections are not "QUICK CONNECT COUPLINGS". Applicant, in defining a "QUICK CONNECT COUPLING" in this way, is availing himself/herself of the right to be his/her own lexicographer.

In Weng a lens assembly (not shown) needs to be threaded into threaded opening 11 and then secured by a lock screw through opening 18. Thus, not only is the Weng type of connection not a "QUICK CONNECT COUPLING", it is more

difficult and time consuming than a conventional threaded coupling as it requires a lock screw to be tightened while the lens assembly is in a precise location relative to the threaded front chamber 11. That kind of adjustment of the lens is very difficult to achieve with threaded interconnections of the lens assembly and the front chamber 11. In any event Weng does not disclose a removable adapter that would allow pre-assembly of the lens assembly and the adapter at the factory if the adapter were to have a quick-connect coupling to the camera base.

Tanaka does not have a removable adapter fastenable to the lens assembly on one side and by means of keys engaging keyways in a camera base on the other. Adapter AD merely provides pin connections 16 (see Fig. 1) which contact switches SW to convey a full open F number for the lens. Adapter AD performs no role in fastening the lens assembly LE to the camera base CA. Changing a lens for Tanaka would require disassembly of the lens assembly and reassembly with a new lens.

Palmer discloses two ring adapters, which couple a lens assembly to a night vision device. A first adapter screws into threads in the night vision housing and the second adapter screws into the first adapter. The lens assembly

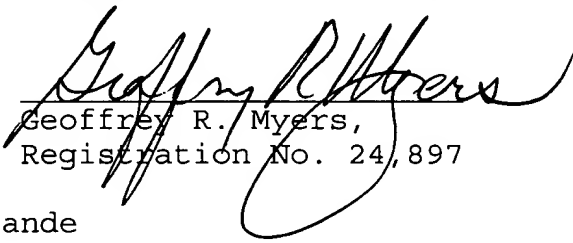
then screws into the second adapter. No quick coupling is disclosed. Again as in Weng, precise location of the lens assembly relative to the night vision device depends on the precise thread registration of two adapters and the lens assembly. The adapters of Palmer do not disclose keys nor does the camera base disclose keyways, which engage the keys as recited in claim 1.

The combination of Weng, Tanaka and Palmer do not disclose an adapter having a base insert end with keys for engagement of a camera base keyway so that precise location of a lens assembly can be easily achieved.

Accordingly, favourable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

Nov. 16, 2003


Geoffrey R. Myers,
Registration No. 24,897

Hall, Priddy, Myers & Vande Sande
200-10220 River Road
Potomac, Maryland
USA
20854

Tel. (301) 983-2500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
hand carried to the U.S. Patent and Trademark
Office on 11-10-2003

MATTHEW A PEQUIGNOT, REG. 43,851 DATE